

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed April 28, 2003. Claims 22-34 were previously withdrawn from consideration, and Claims 1-15, 17-21 and 35-49 were rejected by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 13 have been amended. As such, Claims 1-15, 17-21 and 35-49 are currently pending in the application. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-15, 17-21 and 35-49.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Examiner objected to the specification stating as follows:

"An appendix is included as Exhibit A, but it has not been described in the specification."

At page 25, lines 19-22 of the application, reference is made to Exhibit A. Should the Examiner require modification of this reference, Applicant would willingly comply.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In the Office Action, mailed May 14, 2002, Applicant notes that the Examiner did not initial one of the references in the submitted PTO-1449 form. See PTO-1449 form, attached hereto as Exhibit A. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's initials.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C § 103

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-13, 15, 18-21, 35-38, 40, 43 and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris et al. in view of Byford. Applicant has amended independent Claims 1 and 13 to further clarify the invention. With this amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that Harris et al. and Byford, even when combined, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest every element of the invention as defined by amended Claims 1-13, 15, 18-21, 35-38, 40, 43 and 46-48. For example, Byford and Harris et al. fail to disclose at least one aspect of amended Claim 1, namely:

**an installations/removals module operable to record
installation/removal information regarding the
installation and removal of equipment within an area
serviced by one of the plurality of service centers
using the equipment database through an interface.**

Harris et al. and Byford are not motivated or concerned with the actual "installation" or "removal" of equipment. Rather, Harris et al.'s primary focus is "matching an item of business property to a recipient" (See Abstract of Harris et al.); and Byford's primary focus is "tracing parcels handled by a service provider for a plurality of clients" (See Abstract of Byford). With this in mind, Applicant notes that the term "location" is not synonymous with the term "installation."

Similarly, Byford and Harris et al. fail to disclose at least one aspect of amended Claim 13, namely:

**updating the equipment information database with
installation information to indicate that the
equipment has been installed and further to
indicate the area where the equipment was
installed and the one of the plurality of service
centers associated with the area;
removing the equipment;
updating the equipment information database that the
equipment has been removed and updating a removal
information related to reasons for the removal;
and
shipping the equipment to the central inventory
location.**

Once again, Harris et al. and Byford are not motivated or concerned with the actual "installation" or "removal" of equipment. For example, regulated electric utilities must diligently account for installation and removal of equipment to satisfy unique regulatory requirements. Such regulatory requirements can include, among other things, accounting for whether or not equipment will be included in the "rate base" and accounting for whether or not the installed equipment is sufficient to satisfy "reliability" requirements.

As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 13, as amended, are allowable; and, as Claims 2-12, 15, 18-

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21, 35-38, 40, 43 and 46-48 are dependent on either Claim 1 or Claim 13, they should also be allowable.

The Examiner additionally rejected Claims 14, 17, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). For the reasons stated above, Claims 1 and 13 are believed to be allowable. Therefore, Claims 14, 17, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, and 49, being dependent on either Claim 1 or Claim 13, should also be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is in condition for allowance, and Applicant earnestly seeks such allowance of Claims 1-15, 17-21 and 35-49. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this Application, please contact Applicant's attorney at 214.979.3093. Applicant, through its attorney, stands ready to conduct a telephone interview with the Examiner to review this Application if the Examiner believes that such an interview would assist in the advancement of this Application.

To the extent that any further fees are required during the pendency of this Application, including petition fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees, including, without limitation, any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 23-3189 of Hunton & Williams (Dallas) and reference Attorney Docket No. 82274.472013. In the event that any additional time is needed for this filing, or any additional time in excess of that requested in a petition for an extension of time, please consider this a petition for an extension of time for any needed extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 or any other section or provision of Title 37. Applicant respectfully requests that the Commissioner grant any such petition and authorize the Commissioner to charge the Deposit Account referenced above. Please credit any overpayments to this same Deposit Account.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed April 28, 2003.

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